



Archive photo of crews training on a vacant building.

Cudahy Fire Department

2014 Annual Report

Cudahy Fire Department Annual Report
Message from the Chief 2014

Honorable Mayor John Hohenfeldt
Members of the City of Cudahy Common Council
Members of the City of Cudahy Police and Fire Commission
Residents of the City of Cudahy

Welcome to the 2014 Cudahy Fire Department Annual Report. Information found within the pages of this report reflects on the activities, services, and accomplishments achieved or performed by members of the Cudahy Fire Department over the last year. It is the goal of this team to provide the highest quality fire protection and emergency medical services along with a host of safety and emergency related services to the citizens of Cudahy and the Cudahy community. In addition, team members regularly provide a wide array of non-emergency services because often there is simply no one else to call. Members of the CFD act with the highest level of professionalism supported by state-of-the-art training as they neutralize each situation for which they are called upon to act.

In 2014, the Cudahy Fire Department responded to 2,218 requests for emergency service. This represents an increase of more than 400 calls or an increase of 22% from just 10 years ago. The challenge of meeting community needs associated by this continuing increase in call volume is accomplished with five (5) fewer firefighters (a 20% decrease) than 20 years ago.

In part because of the overall rising trend in call volume, and in part to improve response safety conditions, the CFD continued to evaluate staffing levels and structure of the department during 2014. An important reason to evaluate staffing and structure is due to an inherent limitation found in current operations. With the current two-station response, and with the current six-person daily minimum staffing level, there are times when the senior officer- the shift commander or acting shift commander has to enter a burning building with his partner, leaving a lesser qualified person in command of the situation.

This is a breakdown of the chain of command and prevents optimum setup of the Incident Command System (ICS) which can have far reaching impacts on the outcome of an emergency. This practice, though necessary under current staffing conditions, is inconsistent with state and federal recommendations and requirements such as those of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

This is not the safest situation for firefighters, nor is it the safest situation for our citizens. It simply does not enable the CFD to provide the best, safest service to our citizens. Combined with the overall increase in call volume and considering the CFD is staffed with five (5) fewer persons than it had in the early 1990s, it is imperative to continue consideration of creative ways to increase minimum daily staffing levels from six to seven and or to reevaluate department structure.

Another topic for consideration is the upgrade of the current CFD EMS level from Basic Life Support (BLS) to paramedic, or Advanced Life Support (ALS) service. Currently, CFD EMTs are dispatched to all EMS calls in Cudahy, and they do an outstanding job handling calls, but there are sometimes an EMS call requires ALS skills and equipment. For those calls, a paramedic unit from South Milwaukee, Oak Creek, Milwaukee or even farther away is dispatched along with our CFD ambulance crew. Our neighboring departments provide us with very good and reliable service. However, a paramedic unit located in Cudahy would ensure that ALS care is on scene timely. The goal of any such upgrade would be to improve service to our citizens but it might also produce financial benefits as well. This upgrade will not likely occur in a short period of time but the exploration and consideration process needs to begin.

An important undertaking during 2014 was the initiation of the planning process for remodeling Station One. Fire Station Two was remodeled several years ago and came in well under budget due to much of the work and the general contracting being completed by members of the Department. Hopefully, a similar situation will evolve for Station One. Outside of new windows, a solar heating system and a new apparatus floor in 2008, no other updates have occurred since the station was dedicated in 1958. With the current two-station response continuing into the foreseeable future, the physical portion of updating Fire Station One will need to be initiated.

As we look back on 2014, here are some of our highlights:

- **Retirement** - In January Motor Pump Operator / Emergency Medical Technician Kenneth Kubisz retired from the Cudahy Fire Department. Ken's retirement on January 16th marked the end of an era where a Kubisz was on the Fire Department since November of 1966. Ken's dad, Robert was a CFD member prior to Ken.
- **Newest Team Member** - In June Motor Pump Operator / Emergency Medical Technician Jared Kucik joined the Cudahy Fire Department. During Jared's first days with the CFD, he was presented with the valedictorian award of his Paramedic

class from Gateway College. We are confident that Jared will provide dedicated service to our Cudahy Citizens and we wish him a long and healthy career.

- **Self –Contained-Breathing-Apparatus (SCBA) Grant.** – One breath of hazardous air such as that associated with a fire could mean instant or prolonged and painful death to a firefighter; and, if a firefighter cannot function for himself, he cannot help anyone else. Because of these two realities, the most important piece of equipment in a firefighter’s arsenal is his air supply. That air supply is carried on the back of each firefighter in the form of an SCBA or self-contained-breathing-apparatus. This important equipment has a limited functional life span and it is very expensive. The Cudahy Fire Department’s SCBA equipment is currently in need of replacement at the cost of approximately \$300,000. It is my pleasure to announce that during 2014 the Cudahy Fire Department was awarded a federal grant earmarked for SCBA replacement. So for a 20% co-pay, the CFD will have state-of-the-art breathing apparatus that should provide service for at least 10 years.
- **Radio Purchase/Savings** - Milwaukee County is in the process of upgrading the radio system used by emergency responders in Milwaukee County. All agencies needing to remain with the system (no other viable option is available) are therefore required to make upgrades as well. This left the Cudahy Fire Department in need of replacing many of the radios necessary for operations. With support from Mayor Hohenfeldt, Finance Director Schuknecht and Police Chief Poellot, the CFD and the City of Cudahy were able to take advantage of a window of opportunity to save the citizens of Cudahy tens of thousands of dollars by getting in early on the purchase of new radios.
- **Video Conferencing** - The CFD took a great leap in technological communication by taking advantage of a County-wide grant opportunity to purchase Video Conferencing Equipment. This equipment gives the CFD the capability of linking up with every fire house within Milwaukee County for joint trainings and meetings, but more importantly for CFD, this equipment enables the crew from Station One and the crew from Station Two to take part in the same interactive training session at the same time without leaving their side of the city and temporarily decreasing emergency coverage.

- **Training Accountability** - The CFD took a major step toward training accountability with the implementation of a program called Target Solutions. This program provides trainings and automatically tracks all training and related activities for each individual on the Fire Department. It is especially useful to ensure that all missed and required trainings are made up.
- **Life Saving Medication** - Heroin use/abuse is at epidemic levels in virtually every community. One medication that can reverse the effects of a heroin overdose and therefore potentially save the life of an overdose victim is Narcan. During 2014, the CFD undertook a major initiative in supplying Narcan and training every member of the department in its rapid administration.
- **Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS)** - As mass casualty violent events continuing to evolve across the country, the way fire and police departments respond to those events continues to evolve as well. The CFD is a leading agency in the area to establish a TEMS team. These specially trained CFD EMTs train side-by-side with the Cudahy Police Department Tactical Team and are activated with the Tact Team to treat victims of such an event including injured police officers.

The Cudahy Fire Department team is made up of 25 firefighters and one part-time administrative assistant. The firefighters are each assigned to one of three work shifts and one of two fire stations. Six to eight firefighters are on duty 24-hours per day. During a fire or similar emergency or when the day's regular staffing is committed to other emergencies, off duty personnel are activated to supplement the duty crew. Each member of the Department is cross-trained as a firefighter and as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). Each CFD vehicle is cross-staffed, which means the very same firefighter will respond in an ambulance for an emergency medical assistance call or in a fire engine for a fire or rescue call.

Each day, the members of the Cudahy Fire Department team demonstrate professional skills combined with compassion for our citizens as they carry out their responsibilities with dedication and commitment. They truly make this a world-class fire department.

Please review the following pages of this report for a more complete picture of Cudahy Fire Department activities, responsibilities and accomplishments during 2014.

I want to express my thanks and appreciation to the Cudahy Police Department, our Dispatchers, and all persons working at City Hall and for the City for their support and assistance during the year. I also thank Mayor Hohenfeldt, the Cudahy Common Council and members of the Cudahy Police and Fire Commission for their continued support.

Lastly, I wish to thank our citizens of Cudahy for their unceasing encouragement and their continued support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel Mayer

Daniel M. Mayer, Fire Chief

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Cudahy City Officials

MAYOR

John Hohenfeldt

FIRE CHIEF

Daniel Mayer

FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Thomas Kujawa, President

Kathryn Wojtysiak, Secretary

Gerald Rieder

Victor Venus

Donald Mulock

COMMON COUNCIL

First District, Justin Moralez

Second District, Mary Schissel,

Third District, Randy Hollenbeck

Fourth District, Jason Litkowiec

Fifth District, Richard Bartoshevich

General Information

Area Served	4.75 Square Miles
Population Served (2004) EST.	18,224
Equalized Value of Property Protected	\$1,219,166,500.00
ISO Rating	Class 4
Miles of Roadway (2006) EST.	64.0
Fire Hydrants	576
Full-Time Firefighters	25
Total Fire Losses	\$420,055.00
Fire Responses	72
EMS Responses	1897
Service Responses	61
Hazardous Response	80
False Calls	97
Rescue Responses	12
Other Calls	18
Total Overall Responses	2237

Retirements



Kenneth Kubisz retired from the Cudahy Fire Department on January 16, 2014 with 21.78 years of service. Ken started his career as a Paid-on-Call Firefighter back in June of 1988 and was sworn in as a career FF on April 5, 1992. Ken was a second generation FF and served with his Father Robert Kubisz who retired in 1995. We wish Ken a healthy and long lasting retirement.

New Hires

The Cudahy Fire Department would like to welcome Jared Kucik into the department. Jared was hired June 16, 2014 replacing retired firefighter Ken Kubisz. Jared is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. He has his AAS as a Fire Protection Technician and he is a licensed Paramedic. We expect Jared to have a long and productive career.



Fire Station One 4626 S. Packard Ave.

- (1487) 2006 E- 450 BLS Unit
- (1463) 2001 Pierce 1250 GPM Pumper
- (1489) 2003 E-450 Reserve BLS
- (1490) 2009 Ford F-350 Pick Up
- (1492) 2000 Zodiac Rescue Boat



Fire Station Two

Located at 3115 E. Ramsey Ave.

- (1488) 2009 E-450 BLS Unit
- (1474) 2006 Seagrave 100' 2000 GPM Quint
- (1462) 2011 Pierce 2000 GPM Rescue Truck
- (1499) 2003 Special Operations Trailer
- (Battalion 14) Command Vehicle



Fire Department Staffing

Fire Chief Dan Mayer
Secretary Debra Crawley

Black Shift	Gold Shift	Red Shift
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Station Two	Station Two	Station Two
Battalion Chief	Battalion Chief	Battalion Chief
MPO	MPO	MPO
MPO	MPO	MPO
MPO	Prob. FF	MPO

Station One	Station One	Station One
Lieutenant	Lieutenant	Lieutenant
MPO	MPO	MPO
MPO	MPO	MPO
MPO	MPO	MPO

Calls by the Numbers

Fire Calls

Calls are put into the “**Fire**” category based on the nature in which they are received from our dispatch center. Some examples of a fire call are:

- Fire (building, equipment, vehicle, dumpster, vegetation)
- Smoke showing
- Fire alarm (smoke, fire).

False Calls

Calls are considered “**False Calls**” when the fire department responds to the report of an alarm activation, fire or smoke and the cause is found to be accidental, weather related, malicious, or activation due to testing or just a bad battery in the smoke detector. Fire and smoke calls can be falsely reported by observers, neighbors, etc.

Service Calls

Service calls are a collection of calls that require the fire department to assist the community in variety of ways. Most service calls are “**odor investigations**” which are reported by someone who may smell natural gas or anything that may require the use instrumentation to asses the atmosphere. Its not uncommon to help animals out of trees or sewers. Other service calls can be;

- Water or steam leaks
- Lighting for crime scenes or events
- Ladder truck for access to roofs

Hazardous Condition (no fire)

Hazardous condition calls are related to hazardous materials such as natural gas and carbon monoxide leaks as well as chemical spills or leaks from buildings, transport and passenger vehicles. Other hazardous condition calls are;

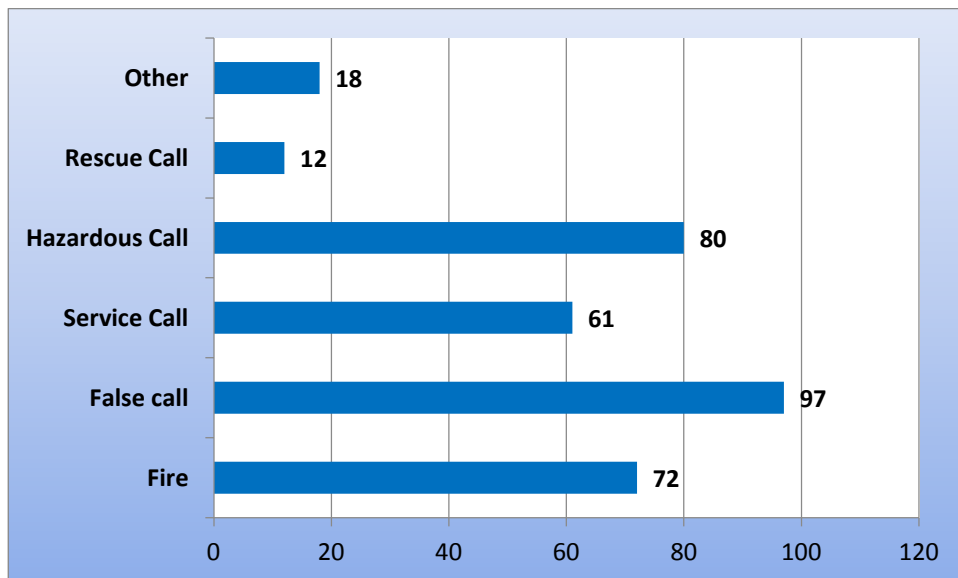
- Electrical wiring / equipment problem
- Power lines down
- Radiation leaks

Rescue Calls

Rescue calls are typically calls that require the rescue or extrication of persons due to an accident, malfunction or mishap. They include removing people from vehicles, buildings and machinery. We also preform rescues from natural surroundings like the cliffs, trees and the lake.

10 Year Response Comparison					
Year		EMS	Fire	Service	Fire Loss
2014		1897	72	268	\$420,055.00
2013		1793	75	212	\$460,150.00
2012		1805	86	213	\$445,980.00
2011		1810	85	218	\$177,290.00
2010		1817	82	196	\$557,200.00
2009		1797	80	205	\$76,487,700.00
2008		1779	87	209	\$877,575.00
2007		1765	118	124	\$295,375.00
2006		1713	125	112	\$113,770.00
2005		1519	131	131	\$326,950.00

2014 Fire Call Breakdown



Notable Calls

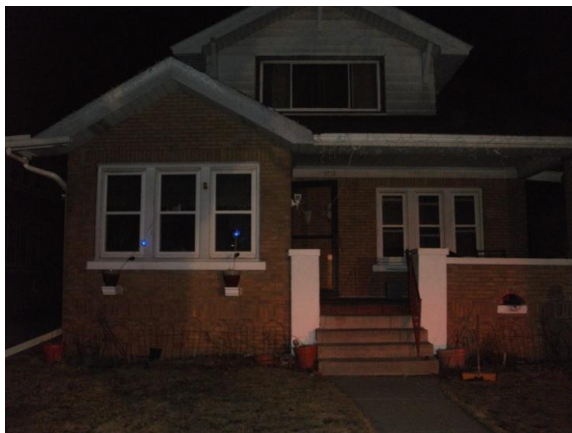
ATI Ladish

March 12th 2014 a roof fire was reported at ATI Ladish over the loading dock on Ladish Ave. The fire was located within the layers of roofing and very difficult to find. The cause of the fire was associated with contractors working on the roof with a torch.



3712 E Edgerton Ave.

In the evening of March 26th 2014 a call for smoke in the house was reported. While en route additional reports suggest that someone was trapped on the second floor due to fire. Members of the Cudahy department removed a person from the second floor porch who could not exit due to fire on the lower level. The fire started in the basement and extended to the first floor through heating vents. Heavy smoke also made its way up the stairway to the second floor apartment making it impossible for the resident to leave the building. Investigation determined that the fire did start in the basement.



5511 S. Illinois Ave.

On April 17th 2014 Cudahy Fire Department received the report of smoke and fire coming from the second floor bedroom of 5511 S. Illinois Ave, in the end unit of a four family townhouse. The fire started accidentally in a bag of clothes and spread to a nearby mattress. The damage was limited to the clothing, mattress, and flooring. All occupants were able to evacuate the building prior to CFD's arrival and no injuries were reported.

**3831 E. Underwood**

The morning of July 25th 2014 smoke and fire was reported coming from the garage of 3831 E. Underwood. Fire crews found fire coming from the front of the two car garage. The fire was quickly extinguished. Further investigation and witness accounts put the point of origin or where the fire started, in the garbage cans in front of the garage. The fire then extended to the garage itself. The fire is ruled arson and the investigation remains open.



Public Relations



The Fire and Police Departments were on hand the first day of school at General Mitchell Elementary for e public relations. We took this opportunity to meet some of the students and share a fire safety message.

McDonald's Safety Day always attracts a lot of people. This year the good weather brought out hundreds of people to see our public displays. The Survive Alive House, Ronald McDonald and a host of other attraction made this day a huge success.



Bureau of Fire Prevention

The Bureau of Fire Prevention is vitally important to the community because of how it affects public safety. Fire prevention inspections insure every public building or business is following state and local safety codes. Public education starts at an early age in the school system and continues through into our independent living facilities. The focus of the Bureau of Fire Prevention is to educate our community in all aspects of safety in order to improve safety of everyone. We take advantage of many opportunities to do this.

The Bureau of Fire Prevention is made up of two divisions;

- Division of Fire Inspection
- Division of Public Education

Division of Fire Inspection

The Fire Inspection Division inspects most multi-family, commercial and industrial properties in the city. This essential public safety service is done semi-annually to insure a safe atmosphere to live, work and visit. This code enforcement activity is required by state law.

Division of Public Education

The Division of Public Education provides an outreach for the purposes of educating the public in fire safety. The Cudahy Fire Department works in conjunction with the Cudahy Police Department and the Cudahy Health Department to deliver safety education to our community. Our outreach efforts focus mainly on the school district, the business community, residential facilities and public education events.

Division of Public Education

The Cudahy Fire Department's Division of Public Education seeks to deliver the message of fire safety to the citizens of the City of Cudahy, from preschool to senior citizens. The primary mission of the Fire Department is to prevent fires from occurring that would otherwise result in a catastrophic loss of life and property. The key means to achieving that goal is through education.

Each year the Fire Department hosts fire station tours for children in the earliest stages of their education. This exposure of children ages four and five years old allows for a low-stress and fun environment in the fire house to learn about what fire fighters do, how they live, and what kind of equipment they use. It is also beneficial for a child of this age to learn what a firefighter looks like in their full protective equipment. The method of having one of the adults with the class dress in the full ensemble of safety equipment, is often used to help the children understand that the person inside the mask is someone they know, and to not be afraid of them.

In 2014, the Cudahy Fire Department hosted the Survive Alive House at each fire station during fire prevention week. In coordination with the school district we were able to host a very comprehensive fire safety tour for every school. The schools rotated in over a two week period to insure flexibility and to connect with most students from kindergarten to the fourth grade. Collectively the Cudahy Fire Department reached out to over 1000 children during our station tours and countless others throughout the year at other venues.

The Fire Department continues to speak to senior citizens upon request. We are formalizing our **Senior Citizen Program** to reach out to all of our independent living facilities like **Williamstown Bay** and **Evergreen Square**. These presentations cover the special senior living environment with fire safety, fire drills, and community living. The Cudahy Fire Department also promotes the **File of Life Program**, this system documents important medical information contained in a magnetic file folder that can be kept on the refrigerator for EMS crews to access. This insures the best medical treatment with the patient's history at our finger tips.

FILE OF LIFE



For any Emergency Dial **911**

Non-Emergency 769-2231

KEEP INFORMATION UP TO DATE



The Cudahy Fire Department continues with our **Residential Knox Box Program**, designed to promote a lock box outside the home to allow firefighters to gain entry during a serious medical emergency. The lock box is very similar to those required by commercial buildings in our city with access only by the Cudahy Fire Department. The Fire Department is currently marketing this program to people who live alone with a serious medical condition. We continue to accept donations to build an inventory for this most valuable program.

The Fire Department shares the use of the Survive Alive House with St Francis, South Milwaukee, and Oak Creek. This type of educational tool is invaluable for teaching children how to properly evacuate their home under the adverse conditions of a fire. As mentioned earlier, in 2014 we hosted the SAH for our fire prevention week tours.

The Fire Department is updating its Smoke Detector Program to include Carbon Monoxide detectors as well. Donations are being sought to create an inventory of combination units that have a ten year battery. State law requires every home with CO producing equipment to have a CO detector installed. Combination units average about \$35 each.

Respectfully,

Robert Schmidt

Robert Schmidt
Battalion Chief
Bureau of Fire Prevention

Fire Inspection Division

The Cudahy Fire Department Division of Fire Inspection continues to work closely with the Building Inspection office to handle referrals, code compliance and related inspection activities. In addition, the Fire Department consults with the Health Department, the Department of Economic Development and the Assessor's Office in order to ensure the most up-to-date information is available and used for code compliance. Through the Fire Inspection program, the Fire Department is often the front line for gathering, updating and sharing vital information with other departments including Police and Dispatchers.

The Cudahy Fire Inspection Bureau is headed by lead inspector, Lt. Jason Flaherty, who oversees 5 additional inspectors. The present inspectors are MPO Justin Piper, MPO Alex Steuber, MPO Brian Rynders, MPO John Burke and our newest member MPO Brian Wojciechowski. MPO Wojciechowski replaced MPO Andrew Rodriguez in the beginning of the year. Andrew resigned his position, after 8 years of dedicated service to the Inspection Bureau.

The Division of Fire Inspection consists of 5 districts- A, B, C, D and E. Each inspector is responsible for conducting inspections of his district. Semi-annual fire inspections are conducted on residential properties (3 family or greater), industrial, commercial, office, mercantile, assembly halls, schools, health care, child care, hazardous, specialty and community based residential facilities.

The Cudahy Fire Department belongs to the Wisconsin State Fire Inspectors Association, which is dedicated to the prevention of fires through inspections and public education. This association meets monthly and holds a spring and fall state fire inspectors conference. Both the meetings and the conferences are very beneficial to fire inspectors. Information available includes: inspection education, code changes and updates, discussions related to fire inspections, code interpretations, learning how other Wisconsin fire departments conduct fire inspection activities, etc.

This year a special effort is being made by the fire Inspectors to ensure all buildings in Cudahy have proper address numbering as required by municipal code. They will be confirming the size and location of the numbering on all buildings including garages at alleys. This is being done to eliminate unnecessary searching for addresses during emergency service responses due to numbering not being visible. A successful effort has already been made to properly re-address the buildings and suites of the Mitchell Industrial Park; formerly known as Ace Worldwide Industrial Park. Fire inspectors have been working in conjunction with the Department of Economic Development, Inspections, and Zoning as well as the City Assessor to accomplish accurate and compliant building numbering.

The city of Cudahy has 743 inspectable properties, which required 1486 individual fire inspections in 2014. The fire inspection bureau also inspects change of occupancy properties, new construction and citizen complaints that come up throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Flaherty

Jason Flaherty
Lieutenant, Lead Inspector

Bureau of Training

Training has always been the cornerstone of success in the fire service and within the Cudahy Fire Department. This year brought many changes to the Training Bureau. Highlights for 2014 consisted of using a state-of-the-art platform, Target Solutions, to train our staff. Video conferencing was introduced as an innovative training tool. A new fire fighter was added to the department. A thorough update of all department Standard Operating Guidelines was completed. The Department also partnered with Patrick Cudahy on Hazardous Material Training. We continued to foster our relationships within the business community by providing training to local businesses.

In January, 2014, the Cudahy Fire Department partnered with Target Solutions. Target Solutions is a records management system as well as a delivery platform for training. The department was looking to achieve compliance and track every hour possible in training standards for both fire and EMS. Target Solutions allowed us to schedule, deliver, and track all of our training. It also facilitated more effective delivery of health and safety training courses that help employees stay safe, compliant, and efficient. Target Solutions is also a certification and qualification management system. It allows our department to track licenses and alerts us when licenses and credentials are expiring. This training platform also features courses based on NFPA codes and standards.

The Cudahy Fire Department introduced a credential to our members known as the ISO Credential Tracker (Insurance Services Office). This tracker allows our department to maintain our ISO records and meet standards for reporting and training. The ISO Tracker consists of the following requirements for fire fighters:

1. Driver Operations Training – 12 hours
2. Facilities Training – 18 hours
3. Hazardous Materials Training – 6 hours
4. Company Training – 192 hours

All Officers are required to have 12 hours of Officer Training in lieu of the Driver Operations Training.

Our first year with the new program consisted of 18 members meeting 70% of the ISO Credential. We had three personnel achieve 100% compliance. Now that our platform is built and our lesson plans for training have been imported, our goal is to achieve 100% compliance by all CFD members. The first year was a success as we were able to deliver more training evolutions and more consistent training as well as give department members the opportunity to make up missed training. Since Target Solutions is a web-based platform, content can be shared by many departments across the country. It can also be accessed from home or work. The system is used by Milwaukee County EMS to deliver training material to Paramedics. The Cudahy Fire Department currently has four personnel who hold a Paramedics License: Mark Siggelkow, Josh McCown, Matt Kolosovsky, and Jared Kucik.

The Milwaukee Fire Department was successful in writing a grant for video conferencing. The grant included all Milwaukee County fire departments who wished to participate. Both fire stations in Cudahy are now equipped with a large- screen television and the infrastructure to video conference with any fire department in Milwaukee County and Milwaukee County EMS. This allows us to remain in-service in the city yet receive training that we would normally have to receive elsewhere. This also allows our department to save on overtime costs, keep our personnel in good emergency response positions, save on fuel costs, and deliver the same training to many individuals. As we work closely with many fire departments in Milwaukee County, video conferencing will be a valuable tool in the future, delivering both information and training.

The Cudahy Fire Department added a new member to the department. Jared Kucik, a graduate from Oak Creek High School and a Marine Veteran, started in June. Jared completed his Paramedic training in June and graduated as Valedictorian of his Paramedic class. Jared is the 300th member of the Cudahy Fire Department.

The Cudahy Fire Department has 83 Standard Operating Guidelines. These guidelines cover many of our emergency responses, safety practices, mutual aid, apparatus operations, station maintenance, and administrative procedures. All of the guidelines were updated in 2014. Each guideline was then assigned to all members of the department as a training review. The Target Solutions platform was used to deliver the content. All CFD members completed the 83 topics in 2014.

The Cudahy Fire Department also had the opportunity to send members to Patrick Cudahy for Hazardous Material training. The Haz-Mat training consists of three eight-hour days of refresher training provided by an outside organization. This partnership with Patrick Cudahy allows us to work together in mitigating emergencies involving hazardous materials.

The Cudahy Fire Department networked with community businesses by providing fire extinguisher training. Businesses that requested the training gained experience extinguishing live fires in a controlled environment. Patrick Cudahy and National Tissue received this training in 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

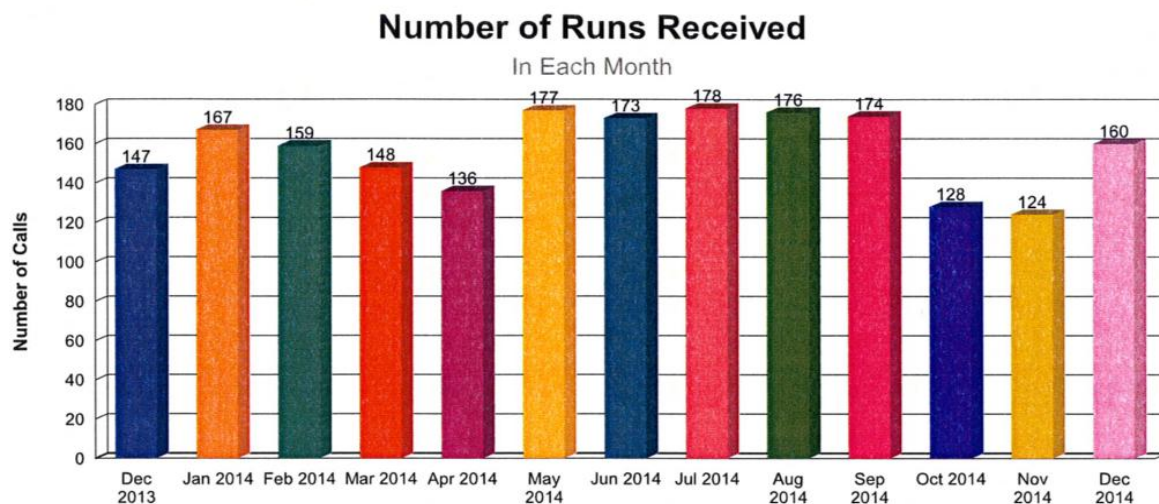
Gary Posda

Gary Posda
Battalion Chief, Cudahy Fire Department

Division of Emergency Medical Services

The Cudahy Fire Department continues to provide emergency medical response and transport services to the citizens within the City of Cudahy. Each fire station has a front line ambulance staffed with two licensed Emergency Medical Technicians. Fire Station One houses an additional reserve ambulance. The reserve ambulance is pressed into service when a front line ambulance is taken out of service or in the event of three or more simultaneous calls.

Fire Department ambulances responded to 1,897 calls for service in 2014. Of the 1,897 request for medical assistance 546 required Advance Life Support (ALS). Of the 546 ALS calls, paramedic units transported 327 patients to area hospitals. Primary paramedic service is provided by the South Milwaukee Fire Department with Milwaukee Fire and Oak Creek Fire Departments as back-ups. Upon request, an ambulance from Cudahy will respond outside the city limits to assist other municipalities with responses. Cudahy Fire Department ambulances were outside the city a total of 73 times last year. Of the out of city transports, 19 were from General Mitchell International Airport, 19 from the City of Saint Francis, and 25 from the City of South Milwaukee.



****Note:** These numbers are based on the Date Of Entry of each individual run

All members of the Fire Department are licensed at the Emergency Medical Technician level. This skill level allows for basic medical and trauma care such as oxygen administration, splinting, bandaging, delivery of babies, and airway management. EMT's can also perform several advanced skills and administer medications. Medications carried on the ambulances include aspirin for heart attack patients, epinephrine for allergic reactions, albuterol breathing treatments for asthmatics, and glucose for diabetic patients.

All EMT's are required to recertify their license every two years. 2014 was a re-licensure year for all EMT's through the state. To recertify, the State of Wisconsin requires each EMT to complete 32 hours of training in specific areas. Each EMT must also demonstrate proficiency in their practical skills. Cudahy Fire Department maintains a close relationship with the Milwaukee County Paramedic Training Center and Milwaukee County agreed to oversee the "in house" refresher and allow the department instructors to conduct the training. This partnership and the new Target Solutions training platform realized substantial cost savings to the department in meeting this state licensure requirement.

Narcan

The City of Cudahy, like many suburban, urban and rural communities have seen a rise in the number of deadly drug overdoses. Early in January, the State of Wisconsin EMS Division approved a pilot program to allow EMS professionals at the EMT level to administer Naloxone which is commonly referred to as Narcan. Narcan is the "antidote" for any person with an overdose caused by a substance that is opiate based. Many common prescription medications as well as street drugs are opiate based: OxyContin, Codeine, Morphine, Heroin, and Methadone just to name a few. Opiates have a calming and pain relieving effect on the user; they are powerful central nervous system depressant which is why they are widely abused. The opiate can depress the central nervous system to the point where the user becomes unresponsive. The respiratory system will become slowed to the point where breathing can cease. Narcan, once administered, will quickly reverse the effects on the respiratory and central nervous systems. Administration by Cudahy EMT's is by the intra nasal route. Narcan is drawn up into a



syringe; an atomizer is attached to create a fine mist which is then injected into the patients' nostrils. This route of administration is just as effective as IV administration without the dangers of handling infected needles. Cudahy Fire Department completed this training and began administering Narcan in early June. Within 90 days the state legislature enacted this skill into law. This skill has been added to the scope of practice for all EMT's Statewide.

In 2014, the Cudahy Fire Department responded to 26 reported overdosed patients. Since the beginning of the Naloxone program in July, Narcan has been administered in 10 overdose patients from July to December.

Grants

The Cudahy Fire Department has a longstanding history of seeking alternative funding for larger equipment purchases. In 2013 an Assistance to Firefighters grant was written requesting monies to replace the department's self-contained breathing apparatus. Every four to five years, the National Fire Protection Agency, NFPA, updates the safety requirements for SCBA's. The Fire Departments SCBA's are not only 10 years old but are also two NFPA safety updates old. The current 2014 NFPA standards for self-contained breathing apparatus include; better voice recognition, higher heat resistance and wider field of view for the face piece, a universal alarm tone, and increased safety reserve of air from 25% to 33%. This grant was written in partnership with the South Milwaukee Fire Department. I am pleased to report that the grant was awarded to Cudahy and South Milwaukee in June of 2014. The total value of the grant is just over 300,000 dollars in new SCBA and apparatus mounts. A committee was organized and an exhaustive evaluation process of four industry leading SCBA models was conducted. The committee was unanimous in selecting MSA's new G-1 SCBA. The order was placed in October and delivery of the new equipment is expected in March of 2015.

TEMS

2014 also brought the development of a specialized EMS team within the Fire Department. The Joint Tactical Unit, a combined unit of SWAT officers from Cudahy, Saint Francis and the South Milwaukee Police Departments, requested that the Fire Department create a TEMS team.

Prior to the establishment of TEMS Team, during operations, the Tactical Commander would contact the closest EMS agency and request an ambulance to standby near the scene. The ambulance crew stages blocks away from the incident and if needed, can only enter if the

scene is completely safe. This model unfortunately creates an unacceptable delay if a SWAT officer or civilian is injured.

TEMS stands for Tactical Emergency Medical Service and is a team of specialty trained fire department members who are responsible for medical care within the tactical environment. TEMS team members wear the same level of body armor as the SWAT operators and train extensively with the SWAT team. TEMS also carry specialized medical equipment for treating the unique injuries often encountered within the tactical environment. Three members of the Cudahy Fire Department attended a week long, state approved, training course. TEMS training centered on SWAT team movements, Tactical Combat Causality Care, patient movement, and scenario based training.

In order to receive state approval and licensure as a team, the operational plan had to be rewritten to include the new skills and duties. The Milwaukee County EMS Medical Director also had to approve the plan and agree to provide medical direction to the team. I am very pleased to report that in early December, the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Medical Director gave the final approval. The Cudahy Fire Department is now licensed and operates one of 12 TEMS teams within the State of Wisconsin. Currently the CFD TEMS Team is comprised of three fire department members. Battalion Chief Jeffery Bloor is the team leader, both Lieutenant Aaron Bixby and MPO Justin Piper are operators. It is intended to add an additional two member in 2015.



Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Bloor

Jeff Bloor
Battalion Chief
Cudahy Fire Department

